

4-24-2020

## Dust Sampling in Simulated Cage-Free Egg Production Environment

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### Recommended Citation

Baumgard, Benjamin; Honken, Grant; Anderson, Michael; and Koziel, Jacek A., "Dust Sampling in Simulated Cage-Free Egg Production Environment" (2020). *TSM 416 Technology Capstone Posters*. 11. [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/tsm416\\_posters/11](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/tsm416_posters/11)

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# Dust Sampling in Simulated Cage-Free Egg Production Environment

Client: Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Ames, Iowa

## Problem Statement

- New developments in cage-free egg production has brought dust management practices into question. The problem at hand is how to make repeatable dust samples to determine best management practices.

## Objectives

- Develop physical system to create repeatable dust samples.
- Create Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dust sampling.
- Test different dust management strategies.

## Constraints

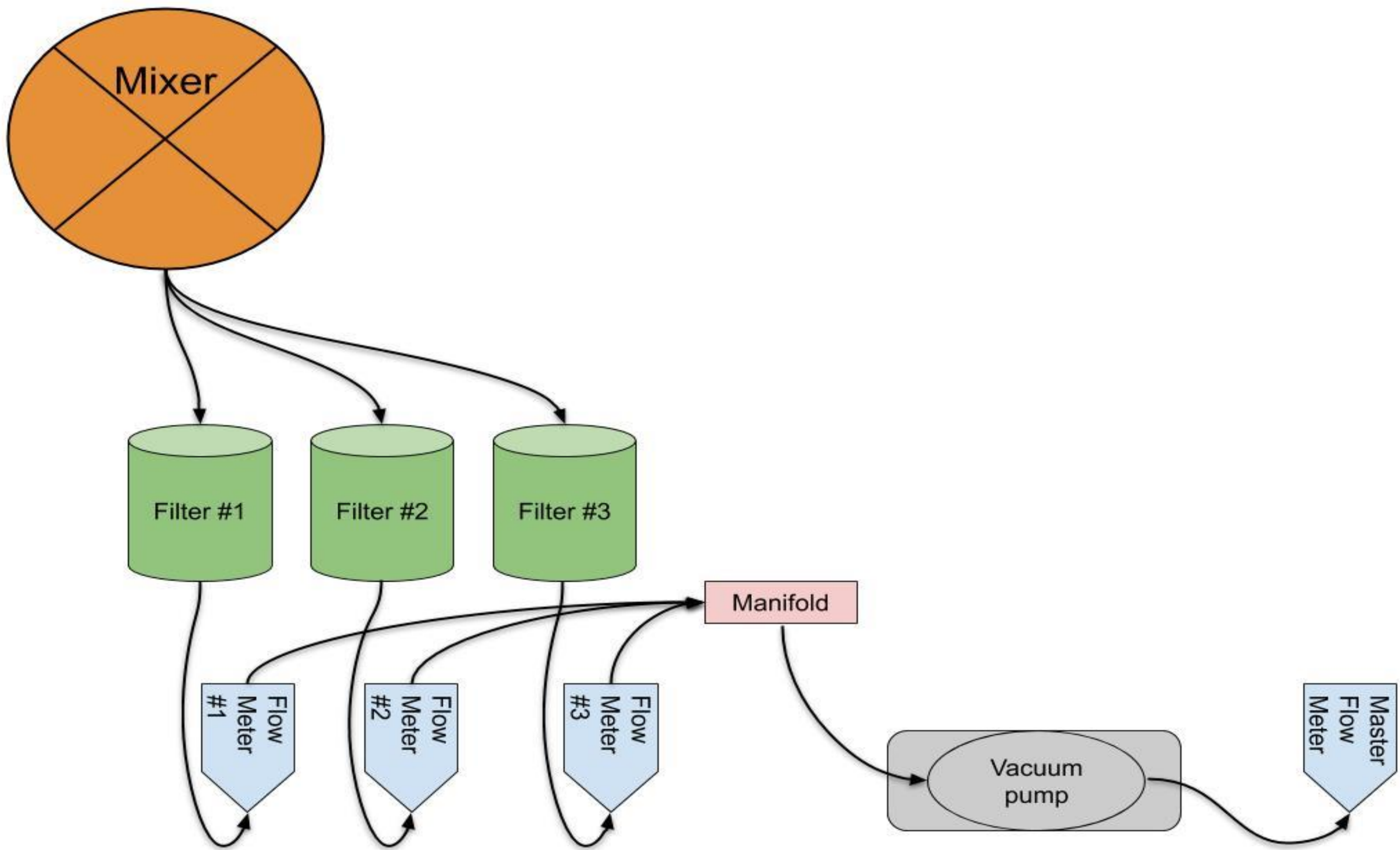
- Budget: Tim Shepherd provided materials
- Timeline: Project completed before 4/4/2020
- Materials: Cement mixer, air hoses, dust collection filters, flowmeters, vacuum pump.

## Scope

- Testing of dust collection in multiple aggregates with different management practices.
- Developing an SOP for operation.
- Scope has been adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic restricting access to our project materials.

Dust Collection System

- Figure 1: Schematic of the system. All names are referenced in the testing procedure document provided to the customer.



- Figure 2: Data collection template

Test Number	Aggregate	Treatment	Hours Processed	Pre-Test Master Flow Meter Reading	Post-Test Master Flow Meter Reading	Pre-Test Flow Meter #1 Reading	Post-Test Flow Meter #1 Reading	Pre-Test Flow Meter #2 Reading	Post-Test Flow Meter #2 Reading	Pre-Test Flow Meter #3 Reading	Post-Test Flow Meter #3 Reading
1	Concrete	NA	2	3	2.3	3	2	2	3	4	1
2											

Test Number	Pre-Weight #1	Post-Weight #1	Pre-Weight #2	Post-Weight #2	Pre-Weight #3	Post-Weight #3	Weight #1	Weight #2	Weight #3	Test Average Weight	Notes
1	0.002	0.0067	0.0021	0.007	0.0022	0.0073	0.0047	0.0049	0.0051	0.00490	EXAMPLE
2											

## Methods/Approach

- Design and construction of dust testing system.
- The different treatment methods will be applied to cage free egg production to reduce dust.

## Major Deliverables

- Design of system to repeatedly test dust creation
- Develop SOP of testing using the above system
- Testing of ratios of Chicken Litter comparing them directly to the data of the concrete

## Recommendations

- Recommendations will be made based on best practices to reduce dust creation and also with the research of dust solutions.

## References

- “Reducing the Dust Load, Protecting the Health in Layer Houses.” *The Poultry Site*, 12 Mar. 2020, [thepoultrysite.com/articles/reducing-the-dust-load-protecting-the-health-in-layer-houses](http://thepoultrysite.com/articles/reducing-the-dust-load-protecting-the-health-in-layer-houses).
- Walker, Meredith Swett. “Dust Baths and Longer Beaks Can Make Cage-Free Chickens into Mite-Free Chickens.” *Entomology Today*, 23 Dec. 2017, [entomologytoday.org/2016/09/14/can-a-cage-free-chicken-also-be-a-mite-free-chicken/](http://entomologytoday.org/2016/09/14/can-a-cage-free-chicken-also-be-a-mite-free-chicken/).